

THE NEW ERA.

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THE OLD ERA.

That was a knightly spirit in Gamaliel Bailey to come to the Capitol during the old regime, within sound of the bondman's cry, that he might translate the despairing wail into the language of humanity, through the columns of the *National Era*, and the editor carried with him a martyr's soul in sustaining the burdens of his paper against all odds for so many years. How glorious was the work which he did! We all remember how Mr. Bailey carried his life in his hand for years; here under what was called—ironically we suppose—the protecting *Aegis* of the Capitol.

Those who have borne the burden and heat of the anti-slavery contest, will understand the meanness of that social ostracism which shut the parlor doors of his own race in the face of Mr. Bailey and his wife, but it is difficult without Mr. Bailey's experience to understand the lessons of usefulness it taught him. It was an experience which sharpened his pen and broadened his sympathies; which showed that solid interest had joined hands with malignant hate, to crush those members of the white race even who would not surrender their conscience to the outrageous claims of negro enslavement.

The political unpopularity of an out-and-out abolitionist, has illustrations of too recent date, for us not to see how Mr. Bailey was a John the Baptist crying in the wilderness.

Those who remember him in the North, cannot fail to recall the courage of this old champion of human rights in planting himself at the Capitol, and by the gratuitous distribution of his journal upon the desks of members, enforcing an unwilling attention to his weighty words of protest and of warning, of justice and of sympathy, in regard to the great crime of his country and the sufferings of its victims.

But all this, thank God, is changed. The old auction block by the side of which he wept at sighs of woe, has been made into a relic for those morbid natures whose hate of wrong needs to be quickened by some reminder of its horrible accessories.

The old negro pen has done service as a prison, in circumscribing at once the movements and the disloyalty of the ancient opponents of the *Old Era* and its editor. In the courthouse here, where he saw the victim of oppression hand a chair to the judge, the colored man now occupies it as a judge himself.

If that saintly spirit were to return and commit the outrage of opposing what it once advocated—complete justice—it not even its saintliness would prevent its being tried before Captain Wall, a colored magistrate. If called to testify as to the value of the *New Era*, the glorious old prophet would, we know, be glad of a cross-examination by a colored lawyer, and of having his evidence decided upon by a jury with its just proportion of colored jurors.

And now, the *New Era* has been laid upon the desks of members, both of the Senate and the House. The distribution was not gratuitous, for every copy of a large edition was paid for by those who see that in the *New Era* we must have an organ, so as to mitigate the remorse of our white fellow-citizens for the injustice they have done us, to give breathing-room to the pent-up aspirations of our race, and to help save the party to which we belong.

The smile of a mature satisfaction lighted up the face of the *Old Era* when it found a resting place in "Uncle Tom's Cabin," and then sadness settled on its countenance, for "Dred," succeeded to the Cabin, and at last the *Old Era* died with its creator.

The *New Era* starts under better auspices than the *Old* and it thanks God and his servants for it. It starts from the palatial residence of the President of the United States, and in the presence of colored ambassadors, under the fostering care of a justice-loving and triumphant party, upon a mission, in which it has no rival, of love and hope, of courage and inspiration, to the millions of our race in this country, and we hope even to the greater millions of the continent of Africa.

The world was not worthy of that great laborer of the *Old Era* and his helpers; but these all died in faith. They spoke for us when we were dumb, and now we use our poor speech to honor their memories and to chronicle their work. But by the vindication of their doctrine and the fulfillment of their prophecies—that we are all equal before God, and that the negro would himself some day prove it—we may make our *New Era* as glorious in achievement as these saints of the *Old Era* were luminous in self-sacrifice.

The memories of the *Old Era* are fragrant and inspiring, and we dwell upon them that they may freshen our appreciation of the opportunities offered to a journal like ours, of honoring the memories of our departed friends among the white race, and of "waking up" the dead among our own.

OUR COMPOSITE NATIONALITY.

Will be the subject of a lecture by our Corresponding Editor, Frederick Douglass, Esq., at Lincoln Hall next Monday evening, 24th inst. There are three great orators in our country who never lack audiences—Wendell Phillips, Frederick Douglass, and Henry Ward Beecher—and there is a noble strife between them which one will allow the other two to call him the greatest American orator. Until the matter is settled by the trio themselves we advise the public to go and hear each as he comes along as a means of forming a judgment on the subject. The one to whom we are to listen next Monday night retains in a heightened degree all those wonderful forces which stirred the heart and aroused the conscience of the old *Era* forces, which, too, bore a noble part in bringing the new

LANDS.

In the year 1856, Congress granted portions of the public lands in alternate sections, to the State of Alabama, in order to aid in the construction of certain railroads within that State. By the terms of the several enactments, the lands thus granted were to revert to the general government, if the proposed roads were not completed within ten years. As the condition of these grants was not complied with, the House of Representatives passed a bill at the session of Congress previous to the last one, declaring them forfeited; a measure which failed to meet with concurrent action upon the part of the Senate. At its last session Congress passed a bill to revive the grant of lands in aid of one of these railroads—that from Selma to Gadsden,—thus withdrawing one of these derelict enterprises from the forfeiture which had been incurred. The House bill of the former session, which has been referred to, also excepted from this forfeiture another of them, viz: the Tennessee and Alabama Central Railroad, which is now known as the Nashville and Decatur road. In view of these facts, it is highly probable that efforts will be made to have each and all of the Congressional grants herein cited, revived; and, indeed, Governor Smith of Alabama did, in his letter of January 29th, 1869, to Senator Pomeroy, initiate such efforts in behalf of two other of these railroads, known respectively as the Will's Valley and the Northeastern and Southwestern Railroads. Besides, about the same time that these subsidies were accorded to Alabama, similar grants of lands for like purposes and upon like terms, were made by Congress to the States of Florida, Mississippi and Louisiana. These grants, too, have been forfeited, and the same policy which dictated the passage of the bill last winter would likewise justify other bills for their revival. Thus the disposition of many thousand square miles of the public lands, including some of the most fertile portions of our southern territory, is at issue in this matter. Under these circumstances, and in consideration of the manifold interests involved in its adjustment, we beg leave to express the hope that each and all of those interests will be carefully considered by Congress before that adjustment is arrived at.

We trust, too, that no hostility upon our part towards railroads will be inferred from what we have thus far expressed. We cheerfully acknowledge their high importance as an instrumentality for the promotion of civilization and of national growth and prosperity. But, while making this acknowledgment, and while freely admitting that upon this account railroads richly deserve the fostering care of the Government, we would take occasion to suggest, that this fostering care should be bestowed in such a manner as to prevent them from overshadowing, in their development, other interests which have claims equally good for a share of the light and warmth to be derived from beneficent legislation. We readily own that in making this suggestion we are somewhat sensitive; but we hold that our duty as journalists, expected to look especially after the interests of a specific class of the American people, requires that we should be thus sensitive. Speaking, then, in the interests of that latest acknowledged element in American citizenship, the freedmen, we urge that the revival of these grants for railroad purposes, simply upon the conditions and provisos contained in the original grants, will tend to the monopoly of lands which should be thrown open for acquisition by the recently emancipated laborers of the soil. It is said that those lands "were in the market for many years at the minimum price of twelve and a half cents per acre and found no purchasers." But, during all those years, the laboring classes of the States thus benefitted were delbarred from the ownership not only of their own homes, but even of their own bones and muscles. Now the times are changed, and those toiling thousands, proud in the consciousness of being their own proprietors, eagerly covet, as the crowning proof of their restored manhood, the possession of their own little farms. Let it not be said that the lands covered by these railroad grants are valueless for agricultural purposes. True it is, indeed, that those which lie in the more elevated portions of these States are not adapted, like others of a less altitude, to the culture of the great Southern staple, cotton; but yet they offer to the industrious husbandman no parsimonious soil. They do not frown down upon his unavailing efforts from rugged and inaccessible mountain ranges; and even if they do veil beneath their green, and smiling hillsides granitic stores of iron and coal, of marble and granite, they have not been charged by their promises of abundant crops of wheat and corn, and other products of our temperate latitudes—promises which in the coming days, without doubt, be right royally kept. Those lands are offered now by Columbia as a choice banquet to the longing freedmen; but these forfeited railroad grants swoop down, as did the Harpies upon the tables of Eneas, to befoul and break up the feast.

Portions of those lands have been occupied and improved by freedmen in the hope and expectation that Congress would declare its former grants of them forfeited, and throw them open to actual settlers under the provisions of the homestead law. Surely the hopes and expectations of those poor but loyal toilers are more deserving of consideration than are those of northern capitalists, who saw fit to relieve the original grantees by purchasing from them franchises, forfeited even then by lapse of time, but previously to that period, by red-handed rebellion.

If, however, these lands are not to be thrown open to actual settlers under the provisions of the homestead law—if the grants of them for railroad purposes are to be revived—then we respectfully but earnestly urge, in behalf of the millions of citizens for whom we are authorized to speak, that these revivals be made under such limitations and restrictions as shall prevent the establishment of a land monopoly, and of its inevitable sequence, an aristocracy of

class; evils under which our Southern States long labored, and of which they are still garnering the bitter fruit. We shall not presume to do more now than to indicate the character and aim of those limitations and restrictions, confident, as we are, that their devising can safely be left to the wisdom and patriotism of Congress.

But, in conclusion, we hesitate not to assert our belief that, under such a revival of the land grants for railroad purposes as we have hinted at, the interests of capital and of labor, now too antagonistic, would be harmonized; that the equalization of landed possessions, so necessary to the preservation of a nation's tranquillity, would be thereby greatly promoted; and that at the same time miles upon miles of railroads would be constructed, thus securing increase to the population, and stimulating it to industry in mining, in manufacturing, and in commercial enterprise, as well as in the culture of cotton and of every other crop indicated by soil and climate.

WHAT IS THE MATTER?

What is the matter with the District of Columbia? Just now she seems to have a tremendous attention from doctors. One advises a change of air, and recommends St. Louis as offering, by its distance, the advantages of travel, and by its location upon that father of waters and of mud a salubriousness of climate only to be furnished by the combined agencies of lager beer, limburger cheese, and sour-kraut. Other doctors recommend an alternative remedy at home. The constitution of the District must be changed, they say. Their first fear is that the pigments beneath the cuticle are too black, and that the epidermis has become also a little too dark, and besides her blood, as it flows from the City Hall, is both too thin and too meagre in quantity. Well, some of these things may be true, but the chief objection to medical attentions just now is, that the doctors nearly all belong to the old school. The time has passed when heavy doses of medicine are either acceptable or beneficial, especially when they are intended to expel or check the black element. Let us first try if we cannot restore the patient to healthy municipal existence by getting Congress to pay taxes on its property here. Then in itself would be a sovereign tonic. Then give her proper representation upon the floor of Congress. That would have the effect to restore her spirits. Seriously, the ballot is too great an educator of our people for us to exchange it for the bauble of representation in a lower house which will have no power. There are too many good men of the District who, by their public spirit, are trying to earn the confidence and support of the people for us to attempt to curtail their rights.

When any number of Radical Republicans agree with these doctors we will take a look at the patient, but till then we have but to say, let her alone.

OFFICE HOLDERS.

President Grant and the members of his Cabinet have shown a willingness to put colored men in any place they have the authority to fill, whenever there has been a vacancy. In view of the old conservative sentiment of the country we regard this as a marked evidence of a design to do justice to us in high quarters, and we would suggest to Republican dispensers of office elsewhere, that they should imitate this example.

In conversation, to-day, with a wealthy and influential colored citizen of one of the Southern States, a gentleman who has declined office, we were rather unhappily impressed with the somewhat sore feeling he justly displayed at the disposition evinced by the Republicans in some of the Southern States, to ignore the claims of colored men. Whilst we are not disposed to claim for ourselves more than we deserve, we cannot accept less without protest.

Any sane Republican south of Mason and Dixon's line knows well enough that the very existence of the party South depends upon the votes and the influence of leading colored men.

These men do not lack intelligence; many of them in natural endowments as well as in education, are the equals of their white fellow citizens, while their claims to office and the patronage of the party are undeniable.

There will undoubtedly be influences brought to bear by the Conservatives to bring the colored vote South into the ranks of that party. We hope the Republicans in that quarter will not by any exhibition of illiberality afford an excuse for desertion on the part of our people.

DEFEATED PROPHECIES.

Mankind is always safe with liberty. No race can be so degraded as not to aspire to the enjoyment of her privileges, and no nation can be so strong as to refuse with impunity to discharge the duties she imposes. We turn our eyes towards the South to hail with gratitude and with hope the blessed illustrations which these principles find in the joyful, orderly, and intelligent acceptance of freedom by our people, and in the ready and general recognition by the American nation of its duty to assist in raising them from the dependence and self-contempt of slaves to the self-reliance and dignity of citizens of a great commonwealth.

It was feared that those who had received no protection from the law would not only not obey it, but in their wild triumphs of vengeance over its odious distinctions pull down the pillars of all social order, and involve themselves, with their former oppressors, in a common ruin.

The United States look now for the best observance of law and the strictest defense of its authority among the colored people in the South. Nor will they be disappointed. Notwithstanding the privations which the exhausted condition of the South has entailed on the freedmen, there are no better custodians of public and private property than they. The capital of the South was dissipated in the late war or carried to other lands by its ascending owners,

and Northern men seem to have fears to entrust theirs to the supposed uncertainties of negro labor, and yet the colored people have remained on the soil to cultivate it, and have so far revived the industry of the South that this year we shall receive as much cotton from the South, without capital, without organized industry, almost without civil order, as we did in 1860.

THE BIBLE IN SCHOOLS.

We print in another column the views of a correspondent on the Bible and school question.

We make haste to utter our dissent from those views as we understand them. We understand our correspondent to say, that the Bible in schools must be given up or we must give up our school system, because Jews, Catholics, and other non-protestant and unorthodox bodies will refuse to send their children to public schools where the Bible is read.

It appears to us that if this were a real danger, we should long ago have experienced its evils. For the Bible has been as objectionable to these sects all along as it is now. Those who object to the Bible object to evangelical doctrine as strongly; and if they did not realize that the advantages of the common school system infinitely outweigh the dangers of the Bible in school, they would have ceased to send their children to public schools from the moment they found the Bible was read in them. If, the answer is made, that they did cease to send their children to these schools, then our reply is, we think, a settler, namely, that we have made a very efficient common school system without them; and it is now too late to conciliate them by removing the Bible which their children never heard read, because they did not attend school, or if attending, the reading of which has done their children so little harm that they continued to send them.

But suppose we did not have the undoubted testimony of the Jews and Catholics, especially, that it is not the Bible they dislike, but the religion, we think, it teaches, where should we draw the line of limit for the illumination of the Bible and its teachings?

It would make no difference whatever to the opponents of the Bible in schools, whether you make known its doctrines by reading them from the Bible or from the text-books, so that in this view the banishment of the Bible means a surrender of what we understand to be its principles; for it follows that if we yield in one case, we must yield in the other. We must alter our text-books to suit dissenters, if we rightly give up the Bible.

What well-founded objection can a Jew or a Catholic have to our children having the Bible read, when we know that they in their schools read their Bible to their children, or else teach the doctrines they believe in? Sectarianism in some sense a luxury, and if a man desires to foster or guard his peculiar tenets, he ought to pay for it; and if simply reading the Bible, without note or comment, is so offensive that certain religions will not send their children to the public schools, the cure for the difficulty, it seems to us, is not to give up one religion, but, if need be, give them their portion of the school fund and let them do as they please with it.

PENNSYLVANIA.

HARRISBURG, Jan. 18.—John W. Geary was inaugurated Governor of Pennsylvania to-day. He made a long address. There was a grand procession of the military, the fire companies, &c. Because a black regiment was allowed in the line all the fire companies left except two from Philadelphia.

We really do not see what is to be done with this "pestilential colored individual"—he is bothering the printers in Washington, he sets legislators by the ears, he will ride in the wrong car, go to the wrong school, and get in the wrong box at the theatre. Now he's been a dress in his own clothes and worrying the freemen," completely spoiling their day's sport, as the above paragraph will show. He seems to be as "irrepressible" as the conflict he incited. Well, we suppose he will continue to "crop up" this way occasionally, and people may as well try and get used to seeing him everywhere. What is to be done? He will be in Congress next.

JOHN A. WILLS.

Among the candidates prominently mentioned for the vacancy, which is presumed to exist in the Southern judicature of the Supreme Court, is Hon. John A. Wills, formerly of Pennsylvania, but now of the District of Columbia. Mr. Wills is a lawyer of unquestioned eminence in the profession, and of decided judicial ability. He is not, however, a mere lawyer. He does not belong to the black-letter, hide-bound material from which judges are too apt to be made—as if a man was only fit to be a judge when he has become so fossilized as to be unfit for anything else. On the contrary, Mr. Wills belongs to the rare and exclusive class of lawyers who are enlightened and progressive, with whom authority is no bugbear, and for whom "precedent" has no terror. An earnest life-long abolitionist of the John Brown variety, a clear, clear-cut man, sincere as a child, of pure integrity and noblest impulses, a scorner of legal shame and a believer in that exalted faith which says that justice is law, and withal of a firmness which knows no wavering or shadow of turning, we should hail the nomination of Mr. Wills to a seat upon the Supreme bench as an era in American jurisprudence, and as a positive guarantee, so far as our voice upon that bench is concerned, of the rights of all the people, irrespective of race, color, nativity, or sex.

UNIVERSAL FRANCHISE.

The National Woman's Suffrage Convention has been since Tuesday morning last in session at Lincoln Hall. Quite a number of ladies and gentlemen distinguished for years as advocates of the rights of women are present, besides many other delegates not so long known to fame. Among the former may be mentioned Mrs. E. C. Stanton, Mrs. Pauline W. Davis, Miss Susan B. Anthony, Senator Pomeroy, and the Rev. Samuel J. May. We have been pleased to note, in conversation with some whom we have met, that there is a modification of the hostility with which the fifteenth amendment was regarded last winter. We rejoice at this, because we would have in full accord

with those friends whose views correspond with our own upon other points of reform. The meetings have been respectfully attended, and yet not so largely as the importance of the questions at issue demand. We trust, however, that the earnestness and ability manifested by the participants in the proceedings will have the effect of crushing out that spirit of ridicule which has latterly led to the disturbance of public meetings in this city.

FREEDMAN'S SAVINGS BANK.

On our third page will be found a financial statement of the National Freedman's Savings and Trust Company, for the month of December, 1869.

This exhibit reveals a remarkable vitality in the management, and a wonderful appreciation of the benefits and the safety of the bank. From what we know of the men at the head of this institution—men who add to their traditional love of freedom, a thorough acquaintance with the wants of our people—we feel assured that there is an ever widening field of usefulness for it.

FIRST ON OUR LIST.—Mrs. E. A. Porter, of Athens, Ohio, was the first single subscriber to the *New Era*. Mrs. P. thought there was good luck in being the first to place her name on the list.

The *American Agriculturist* is the first exchange to reach us. We thank the publishers, Orange Judd & Co., for their promptness in recognizing us among their exchanges, and hope the fact that they are first on our list is also an omen of good in the future to them and to us.

LIFE INSURANCE.—In another column will be found the advertisement of the National Life Insurance Company, of which Clarence H. Clark, Esq., is President and Emerson W. Peet, Secretary. We shall present to our readers an article upon the subject which this association makes its speciality; and, therefore, content ourselves now with calling the attention of the public to the solid and reliable character of this Company as manifested by the names of its officers.

IOWA.—The Legislature of Iowa, on the 18th inst., elected Hon. G. G. Wright United States Senator for six years, by a vote of 117 Republicans to 19 Democrats. James B. Howell was elected by the same vote to fill the vacancy occasioned by the resignation of Mr. Grimes.

RHODE ISLAND.—On the 18th inst. the House passed a resolution ratifying the fifteenth amendment to the Constitution of the United States by a vote of 57 to 9. The Senate passed the resolution last June, so the ratification by the State is complete.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Which shall Educate The State or the Church?

We are on the eve of a triangular contest in regard to our public school system—triangular because there are evidently three parties in process of formation: one for the retention of the Bible and other religious text-books in the public schools; another for the withdrawal of all books of a religious nature; and still another, comprising the main portion of the Roman Catholics, and a few Protestants who hold that the State has no right to teach; that the Church is superior to the State in all things, and that education belongs solely to the Church.

Now, I hold that it is not only the right but the duty of the State to teach. It is equally the right of the Church. The State supports and fosters the week-day schools, the Church, the Sunday schools. In so far, then, they can and do both teach. It is the imperative duty of the State to teach, because, if the State allows ignorance to flourish, she propagates crime and sows the seeds of her own destruction. A free State which allows its citizens to grow up in ignorance must expect anarchy and revolution as a sequence.

I belong to the party which advocates the exclusion of the Bible from the public schools, for the following reasons: I believe that the schools ought to be secular, and that the home and the Sunday school are sufficient, and better adapted, for the religious instruction of youths than the public schools; that in a country like ours, where all persons are free to worship as they please, it is unjust for the State to inculcate doctrines of a sectarian nature. It may be said by some that the Bible is not sectarian. Granted. But the Jews and millions of others in this country look upon it as sectarian, and containing dogmas which conflict with their religious convictions. It is in contravention of the spirit of the age and our Government for the State to teach religion of any kind.

I look upon the Roman Catholic church as more of a government than a religion, and hence am not surprised at the efforts of the Jesuits to break down our public school system. The American system of education is the foundation upon which rests the stability of our government, the Ajax which supports it.

When the question arises, as it will, whether the people of the United States shall be governed from Rome or from Washington, whether the men who make our laws and shape our destiny shall be elected by the free will of the American people, or appointed (nominally at least) by a foreign potentate, on which side will our friends be found who advocate the retention of religious text-books in the public schools? There can be no middle ground. Will they unite with those who wish to do away with every cause of complaint, or will they stand aloof, and say, "if we cannot get all we want, the school system must go down?"

Remember, friends, that those who have right and justice on their side are well armed. Let the true friends of our school system unite, do away with every cause of complaint, as far as is in their power, and place the schools upon a truly secular basis, under the control of the State, as the fathers intended they should be.

J. D. G.

WASHINGTON, January 17, 1870.

FAREWELL TO THE PULPIT.

The following letter was read by the Editor of the *New Era* to his late charge, the Fifteenth Street Presbyterian Church, last night, January 19, 1870:

To the Session and Congregation of the Fifteenth Street Presbyterian Church: DEAR BRETHREN: Duty calls me to another and different sphere of labor. In taking farewell of you the interests of my race would seem to demand that I at the same time bid farewell to the ministry as a profession.

I have never had much respect for mere titles, and I doubt not that with a reverent spirit and a zealous devotion to the work of my Master in conducting a public journal I will remain as much of a Reverend there as here, although I hereby drop the title, as I think, forever.

This action springs from no change of conviction in reference to the cardinal principles of the Gospel of Christ, but from a belief that there is a place for me to fill at present in which I need the freedom of secularity, and in the labors of which, I think, I can do more good without the burden of a title, which is

sometimes the watchword of superstition among followers, and often a sign of meekness in the weaker.

In case, I do not think it necessary to go through those forms of ecclesiastical association usual in the Presbyterian Church, I received the conventional right to preach from the people in a Baptist Church, and I hereby surrender to the people whatever rights they have in the matter. My congregational character as to church government, and I have accepted the Presbyterian form of government among our people untainted with proscription at the Lord's Table. I left the body the day I was born—at the call of freedom, and I mean not to be again "entangled with the yoke of bondage."

It may be that my departure from the pulpit will help towards the solution of some question I have raised in it, one of which is whether it is not better to break up colored churches along with the colored schools, and join with our white brethren, like General Howard and his co-laborers, who are ready to receive us as brethren in the church of Christ.

I shall remain among you, and in the Editorial Chair of the *New Era* I will use whatever poor powers I possess to animate you and instruct your children in the love of Christ.

I bid you an affectionate farewell from this pulpit, the duties of which, if well discharged, would prevent me from making my paper what it must be to succeed, and offer you an affectionate greeting as a guardian of your interests in a public journal.

Yours lovingly, SELLA MARTIN.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 19, 1870.

BALTIMORE, January 18, 1870.

EDITOR NEW ERA:

I am happy to learn that you are about to start a paper in the city of Washington in the interest of your race, and pending this great question of political rights nothing is so essential to their full attainment as the Press. This is especially needed at the present time in Maryland, where the colored people are denied the franchise, and nothing being done by either of the political organizations here to secure it.

There is no doubt, but that a majority of the registered voters, to-day, are not averse to colored suffrage, and it only needs the proper discussion of this question to secure their affirmative action.

After a partial canvass of some weeks, with the ablest and most earnest Republicans in the State, and the true friends of colored suffrage, we are convinced that it can be secured by the reorganization of the Republican party, upon the basis of equal political rights. To this end we have advised the colored people of Maryland to enroll themselves in a political organization in their respective wards and precincts throughout the State, for the purpose of mutual conference.

I write now to request that you will devote a portion of your first number to the purpose of educating the colored people in this State how to hold orderly and quiet political meetings, and to express in clear and concise terms their political wants, and to continue this subject in your subsequent numbers. If you will do this you need have no fear but that within twelve months, the rights of the colored man to vote will be assured in Maryland.

Very respectfully,

MISS CARROLL.

NEWS SUMMARY.

Memphis averages one murder per week.

Detroit enjoys the luxury of a female barber.

There is \$108,000,000 in the United States Treasury.

During 1870 there will be six eclipses—four of the sun and two of the moon.

A colored joint stock company has bought a farm near Augusta, Ga.

In the London Times appears an advertisement for a "Christian woman" as a servant.

Railroads in South Carolina have reduced their fare to emigrants to one cent mile.

California is legislating to prevent the adulteration of milk.

Miss Charlotte Cushman has arrived in Rome, but her health is far from being restored.

The freemen in Norwich, Conn., recently turned out one night to put out the Aurora Borealis.

A. T. Stewart's city establishments gives employment to upwards of 1,800 persons, male and female.

Ex-Secretary Seward and his party have arrived at Havana from Vera Cruz. They will probably spend a week or so in Cuba.

The Legislatures of Iowa, Kansas, and Wisconsin have each elected a woman as engrossing clerk.

Kentucky increased its debt one million in 1869, and the State Auditor estimated that there would be an even greater deficit for 1869.

The bonded debt of Illinois on December 1st was \$5,104,859 64, a decrease of \$885,593 89 during the year.

Protestants in Spain, under the protection of the Liberal Government are active in establishing places of worship and distributing Bibles.

The model State of the Union, financially considered, is Iowa. By January 15th she will be out of debt, and have a surplus of half a million dollars in the State Treasury.

The emancipated peasantry in Russia are industriously cultivating the ground, now that they have a greater personal interest in the proceeds.

Henry Ward Beecher announced to his congregation Sunday that he declined to receive the offer recently made him of an advance of salary from \$12,000 to \$20,000.

Strict orders have been given through the Russian Empire to prevent any manifestation on the anniversary of the emancipation of the serfs, which occurs February 27.

Mining has ceased to be the leading interest of California, and wheat is now king. The present year's crop is estimated at twenty million bushels.

It is predicted that Italy will become one of the largest sugar producing localities on this continent. The character and soil are admirably adapted to its culture, and the crop is a sure one.

Francis Robinson, of Blackington, Conn., was bitten by a mad dog thirty years ago, and about once a month ever since has had a fit during which he barks like a dog and froths at the mouth.

Quebec has refused to pay the sum imposed by the Legislature for common school education, and the Government has instituted a suit to compel the city to comply with the terms of the law.

The Monroe (Ga.) Advertiser says: "If the negroes are resected to the Legislature, as they undoubtedly will be—this country will be represented in the Lower House by Judge Monroe Clower and his former slave, George Clower."

Men in New York advertise to send, for a consideration, a recipe for writing without pen or ink. When the money comes, they send the following: "Write with a lead pencil. A great many chaps are paying from fifty cents to a dollar to learn this important secret."

St. John's River men tell us that near Rio Rico's bluff, on the river, in Florida, there is an orange grove, embracing about an acre of ground, which has borne this year 300,000 oranges. These at two cents apiece, would yield \$6,000. The average price of over 100,000 already sold was three cents. Four of the trees yielded about 5,000 each.

Representatives of both the Republican and Conservative parties have united in preparations for a public demonstration on the occasion of the State's admission. A joint committee applied